

August 26, 2014

Dear Rhonda,

Per the request of the Colorado Department of Higher Education and the Colorado Department of Education, PARCC, Inc. has developed the following response on the use of the PARCC assessments:

The PARCC assessments were developed for a number of purposes: (1) to inform instructional improvements, (2) to support various accountability systems such as school and district accountability and educator effectiveness evaluation systems, and (3) to make determinations as to whether students are college and career ready or on track to becoming so. The knowledge and skills assessed by PARCC are contained in the Common Core State Standards (CCSS), which were developed (with input from higher education faculty) to focus on the English language arts/literacy and mathematics knowledge, skills and practices needed for post-secondary success. PARCC will identify a "cut score" on its high school tests that indicate college readiness by conducting a systematic standard-setting process that includes the judgments of high school and college faculty combined with relevant impact data.

The efficacy of PARCC's College and Career Ready Determination (CCRD) will be validated through future studies that investigate the extent to which students who have earned a PARCC CCRD succeed in entry level college courses. Therefore, institutions of higher education could consider using performance on PARCC high school assessments as one of several criteria that can contribute to such determinations. The efficacy of such determinations will need to be determined – as with any measure— through rigorous longitudinal studies, which are planned in the future.

Sincerely,



Laura Slover, CEO, PARCC, Inc.